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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to determine the support of southern agricultural education state supervisors, teacher educators, and graduate students for a merger of the Southern Agricultural Education Conference and the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education. A three-part instrument was developed that obtained descriptive information about respondents, attitudinal and descriptive information about the merging of the two conferences, and information about respondents' perceived advantages and disadvantages of a merged conference concept. Instruments were returned by 132 subjects. Findings indicated that respondents supported the concept of merging both regional conferences and were more likely to attend a merged conference. They supported a 4-day merged conference held in the spring at a university campus. At the merged conference, almost equal support was shown for integrating the research portion into the regular conference and for a conference with a separate research portion. Respondents also indicated a belief that graduate students and supervisors should be encouraged to attend the conference. (Sixteen data tables are provided within the body of the report. The instrument and cover letters are appended.) (YLB)

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A Survey To Determine The Feasibility Of Merging Southern Agricultural Education Professional Conferences

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Jimmy Cheek
University of Florida

Earl Knebel
Texas A & M

Charles Smith
Louisiana State University

Background

A frequent topic of discussion for a number of years at both the Southern Agricultural Education Conference and at the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education has been the possible merger of both conferences into one. Many points, both pro and con, have been mentioned concerning such a possible merger.

At the business meeting of the 1981 Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education a general discussion was held concerning the "directions the Conference should take in the future" (Cepica, et al. 1981, p. 120). As a result of this discussion a motion was made:

> that a committee of four be appointed by the Chairman to meet at the 1981 AVA Convention and report to the business session of the 1982 Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education. The motion passed. Chairman Cepica named the committee as follows: John Hillison, Virginia, Chairman; Earl Knebel, Texas; Jimmy Cheek, Florida; and Charles W. Smith, Louisiana. (Cepica, et. al., 1981, p. 120)

As a result of that motion, the appointed committee fulfilled its obligations by meeting during the 1981 AVA Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. The committee also conducted a survey of appropriate agricultural education personnel in the southern region of the American Association of Teacher Educators in Agriculture (AATEA).

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to determine the amount of support Southern Agricultural Education state supervisors, teacher educators and graduate students have for a merged conference of the Southern Agricultural Education Conference and the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education. The following specific questions were answered:

1. What is the amount of support for a merged conference by position?
2. What are the attitudes toward a merged conference by position?
3. What is the likelihood of attending a merged conference by the amount of conference attendance in the previous three years?
4. What is the likelihood of attending a merged conference by the amount of conference participation in the previous three years?
5. What are the attitudes toward a merged conference by the amount of conference participation in the program during the previous three years?
6. What is the season suggested for a merged conference by position?
7. What is the season suggested for a merged conference by the amount of conference attendance in the previous three years?
8. What is the season suggested for a merged conference by the amount of conference program participation in the previous three years?
9. What are the number of days suggested for a merged conference by position?
10. What are the number of days suggested for a merged conference by the amount of conference attendance in the previous three years?
11. What are the number of days suggested for a merged conference by the amount of conference program participation in the previous three years?
12. What should be the location of a merged conference?
13. Should the research portion of a merged conference be separate from or integrated into the Southern Agricultural Education Conference?
14. Will a merged conference encourage or discourage graduate students and new professionals to participate in the research portion?
15. Will a merged conference encourage or discourage state supervisors to participate in the research portion?

Methodology

The methodology section describes the population and sample, instrumentation, procedures, and statistics used for the study.

Population and Sample

The population of the study consisted of 141 teacher educators (Rogers, 1981), 95 state supervisors (U.S. Department of Education, 1981), and an unknown number of graduate students in the southern region.

The sample consisted of those who responded to the instrument. A total of 132 respondents were recorded. Of that total 80 were teacher educators, 41 were state supervisors, six were graduate students, and 5 were in the category other. Table 1 gives a detailed report of the respondents.

It should be noted that Texas and Oklahoma state supervisors are considered a part of the western region.

Instrumentation

The instrument developed by the researchers for the study was composed of three major parts. One part obtained descriptive information about each respondent. The second part obtained attitudinal and descriptive information about the possibility of merging the two southern agricultural education conferences. The third part used an open-ended format to obtain information about respondents' perceived advantages, disadvantages, and support of a merged conference concept. A copy of the instrument is located in Appendix A.

The instrument was developed by the project staff. It was reviewed by all members of the appointed project committee. Comments and suggested changes made by committee members were used by the project staff to revise the instrument.

The instrument was published on blue and green paper. The instruments published on blue paper were sent to teacher educators and graduate students. The instruments published on green paper were sent to state supervisors. The instruments used different colored paper for the convenience of the researchers while sorting and handling copies.

Procedures

A cover letter explaining the primary purposes of the project was sent to each agricultural education department head and to each head state supervisor in the southern region. Along with each cover letter a packet of instruments deemed to be the appropriate number based upon the directories

Table 1

Frequency of Respondents Count by Position and State

State	Graduate Student	Head State Supervisor	Supervisor	Head Teacher Educator	Teacher Educator	Other	Total
Alabama	-	-	6	2	4	-	12
Arkansas	-	1	1	1	2	2	7
Florida	-	-	-	1	6	1	8
Georgia	-	1	5	-	3	2	11
Kentucky	-	1	4	-	3	-	8
Louisiana	-	1	3	1	2	-	7
Mississippi	-	1	2	2	6	-	11
North Carolina	-	1	3	2	7	-	13
Oklahoma	2	-	-	2	5	-	9
South Carolina	-	1	3	1	4	-	9
Tennessee	-	-	2	4	2	-	8
Texas	2	-	-	6	5	-	13
Virginia	2	1	4	2	7	-	16
TOTAL	6	8	33	24	56	5	132

for teacher educators and state supervisors was also sent.

Each head teacher educator and head state supervisor was asked to distribute one instrument to staff members. Attached to each instrument was a brief letter from the project director encouraging the agricultural educators to respond to the instrument.

The head teacher educators collected the instruments from their staff and returned them by an October 15th, 1981 deadline. The head state supervisors collected the instruments from their staff and returned them by a November 20th deadline.

Copies of the project cover letters and the letter encouraging participation are located in Appendix B.

Statistics

The data were analyzed at the computer facilities located at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was the program used. Specific statistics used were frequency counts and means.

Results

The results section reports the findings of the study based upon the data analysis. Each of the research questions is answered.

What is the amount of support for a merged conference by position?

Table 2 indicates that the majority of subjects in all positions, except other, supported the concept for having a merged conference. When totaled it was found that 85 subjects representing 79% of the respondents favored holding a merged conference. Twenty-three head state supervisors and supervisors favored a merged conference, while only six opposed it. Fifty-eight head teacher educators and teacher educators favored a merged conference, while 14 opposed it.

What are the attitudes toward a merged conference by position?

A Likert-type scale from 1 to 5 with 5 being the most favorable toward a merged conference was used. When totaled, all respondent categories, except other, rated every statement between a 3 and a 4. The other respondent category had an overall rating of 2.94. The respondent category with the most favorable attitude toward a merged conference was head teacher educators with a grand mean of 3.76. The second highest respondent category grand mean was 3.70 from teacher educators. The instrument item with the most favorable rating was, "I would be more likely to attend one merged conference" with a grand mean over all respondent categories of 3.84. This information is displayed on table 3.

What is the likelihood of attending a merged conference by the amount of conference attendance in the previous three years?

Table 4 indicates the response from respondents based upon previous attendance at the two southern region agricultural education conferences during the past three years. For every category from zero years attendance

Table 2

Frequency Response for Support of a Merged Conference by Position

Support	Graduate Student	Head State Supervisor	Supervisor	Head Teacher Educator	Teacher Educator	Other	Total
Supports a merged conference	2	5	18	20	38	2	85 (79%)
Does not support a merged conference	1	2	4	4	10	2	23 (21%)

Table 3
Mean Attitude by Respondent Category

Attitude Statement	Graduate Student (n=6)	Head State Supervisor (n=8)	Supervisor (n=33)	Head Teacher Educator (n=24)	Teacher Educator (n=56)	Other (n=5)	Grand $\bar{x}$
1. *I support the merged concept.	3.17[a]	3.50	3.55	3.83	3.82	3.00	3.48
2. **It would weaken both conferences.	3.33	3.00	3.27	3.58	3.68	2.80	3.28
3. *I would be more likely to attend one merged conference.	4.00	3.88	3.67	4.21	4.29	3.00	3.84
4. **It would be confusing to have a merged conference.	3.67	3.13	3.42	3.88	3.75	3.80	3.61
5. *My state or institution would be willing to host a merged conference.	3.00	3.38	2.97	3.92	3.43	2.40	3.18
6. **It is easier to attend two medium length than one long conference.	2.83	3.13	3.55	3.33	3.43	3.40	3.28
7. **A merged conference would weaken the emphasis on research.	3.33	3.13	3.42	3.54	3.50	2.20	3.19
Grand $\bar{x}$	3.33	3.31	3.41	3.76	3.70	2.94	3.41

* Coded as Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Undecided = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1

** Coded as Strongly Disagree = 5, Disagree = 4, Undecided = 3, Agree = 2, Strongly Agree = 1

Table 4

Frequency Response for Likely to Attend a Merged Conference
by Amount of Conference Attendance in Previous Three Years

	Southern Agricultural Education Conference Attendance in Previous Three Years					Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education Attendance in Previous Three Years				
Likely to Attend	0	1	2	3	Total	0	1	2	3	Total
Less	7	5	2	3	17	10	5	1	1	17
More	24	27	13	8	72	52	11	5	4	72
No difference	11	14	3	12	40	28	6	4	2	40
Total	42	46	18	23	129	90	22	10	7	129

to three years attendance, the respondents indicated they were more likely to attend a merged conference. The total for subjects who had attended the Southern Agricultural Education Conference at least one of the last three years was 48 more likely to attend and 10 less likely to attend. The total for subjects who had attended the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education at least one of the last three years was 20 more likely to attend and seven less likely to attend.

What is the likelihood of attending a merged conference by the amount of conference program participation in the previous three years?

Table 5 indicates that respondents who have participated in the southern region conferences in agricultural education during the previous three years believe they would be more likely to attend one merged conference as compared to two separate conferences. Thirty-four participants in the Southern Agricultural Education Conference indicated they would be more likely to attend a merged conference, as compared to seven who believed they would be less likely to attend. Fourteen participants in the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education believed they would be more likely to attend a merged conference, as compared to five who believed they would be less likely to attend.

What are the attitudes toward a merged conference by the amount of conference program participation during the previous three years?

Respondents indicated their highest grand mean for the statement, "I would be more likely to attend one merged conference." The grand means were 3.83 and 4.11 respectively for program participants in the Souther Agricultural Education Conference and the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education. The grand mean for three year program participants in both conferences was the lowest. The grand means were 2.60 and 3.29 respectively. All means were based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most favorable

Table 5

Frequency Response for Likely to Attend a Merged Conference by Amount of Conference Participation in Previous Three Years

	Southern Agricultural Education Conference Participation in Previous Three Years					Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education Participation in Previous Three Years				
Likely to Attend	0	1	2	3	Total	0	1	2	3	Total
Less	10	4	2	1	17	12	4	-	1	17
More	38	25	9	-	72	58	9	2	3	72
No difference	19	9	8	4	40	29	8	1	2	40

toward a merged conference. Table 6 displays the details of respondents' participation in programs.

What is the season suggested for a merged conference by position?

Table 7 indicates that respondents favor spring as the season of year for holding a merged conference. A total of 72 respondents or 61% indicated they favored holding a merged conference in the spring. All respondent categories favored spring as the season for holding a merged conference.

What is the season suggested for a merged conference by the amount of conference attendance in the previous three years?

When the seasons are examined by respondent category on previous conference participation it can be found that subjects prefer spring as the time to hold a merged conference. The participants in the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education indicated strong second place sentiment for holding a merged conference during the summer, the research conference's traditional time for meeting. Respondents who had attended the research conference at least one of the last three years had 18 favoring a spring merged conference while 13 favored a summer merged conference. Table 8 displays the survey results for this question.

What is the season suggested for a merged conference by the amount of conference program participation in the previous three years?

Table 9 indicates that spring is the most popular choice of respondents by program participation category. Once again, participants in the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education during the past three years indicated spring as a first choice, but showed a lot of support for summer. Respondents who had been on the research conference program at least once during the previous three years had 14 who supported a spring conference and 12 who supported a summer conference.

Table 6
Mean Attitude or Opinion Toward Merger by Previous Participation

Attitude Statement	Southern Agricultural Education Conference Participation in Previous Three Years					Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education Participation in Previous Three Years				
	0	1	2	3	Grand $\bar{x}$	0	1	2	3	Grand $\bar{x}$
1. *I support the merged concept.	3.78	3.74	3.63	2.17	3.33	3.76	3.38	4.67	2.67	3.62
2. **It would weaken both conferences.	3.54	3.47	3.58	2.33	3.23	3.52	3.33	4.00	2.83	3.42
3. *I would be more likely to attend one merged conference.	3.99	4.26	4.05	3.00	3.83	4.03	4.05	4.67	3.67	4.11
4. **It would be confusing to have a merged conference.	3.74	3.60	3.89	2.17	3.35	3.69	3.52	4.00	3.33	3.61
5. *My state or institution would be willing to host a merged conference.	3.09	3.61	3.89	2.83	3.36	3.17	3.76	4.33	4.33	3.90
6. **It is easier to attend two medium length than one long conference.	3.35	3.37	3.53	3.67	3.48	3.48	2.81	4.33	3.50	3.53
7. **A merged conference would weaken the emphasis on research.	3.48	3.47	3.47	2.00	3.11	3.48	3.24	3.67	2.67	3.27
Grand $\bar{x}$	3.57	3.65	3.72	2.60		3.59	3.95	4.24	3.29	

* Coded as Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Undecided = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1

** Coded as Strongly Disagree = 5, Disagree = 4, Undecided = 3, Agree = 2, Strongly Agree = 1

Table 7

Frequency Response for Season Suggested for Merged Conference by Position

Season	Graduate Student	Head State Supervisor	Supervisor	Head Teacher Educator	Teacher Educator	Other	Total
Winter	-	1	7	2	4	-	14
Spring	3	6	18	16	26	3	72
Summer	3	-	1	2	20	1	27
Fall	-	-	4	1	-	-	5

Table 8

Frequency Response for Season Suggested for Merged Conference
by Amount of Conference Participation in Previous Three Years

	Southern Agricultural Education Conference Participation in Previous Three Years					Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education Participation in Previous Three Years				
Season	0	1	2	3	Total	0	1	2	3	Total
Winter	6	7	-	1	14	13	1	-	-	14
Spring	32	22	13	5	72	58	10	2	2	72
Summer	22	3	2	-	27	15	8	1	3	27
Fall	4	1	-	-	5	5	-	-	-	5

Table 9

Frequency Response for Season Suggested for Merged Conference by Amount of Conference Attendance in Previous Three Years

	Southern Agricultural Education Conference Attendance in Previous Three Years					Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education Attendance in Previous Three Years				
Season	0	1	2	3	Total	0	1	2	3	Total
Winter	5	8	-	1	14	13	1	-	-	14
Spring	16	24	14	18	72	54	8	7	3	72
Summer	16	9	2	-	27	14	9	1	3	27
Fall	3	1	1	0	5	4	1	-	-	5

What are the number of days suggested for a merged confernece by position?

Table 10 indicates that 61 respondents by position favored 4 days as the length of time for holding a merged conference. The second most popular choice was 3 days with 33 respondents favoring it. Each category of respondents favored 4 days, except head teacher educators with ten favoring 4 days and ten favoring 3 days and graduate student which had 1 favoring 2 days, 1 favoring 4 days, and 2 favoring 5 days.

What are the number of days suggested for a merged conference by the amount of conference attendance in the previous three years?

The respondents indicated strong support for a 4 day merged conference by attendance category. Respondents who had attended the Southern Agricultural Education Conference in at least one of the last three years had eighteen supporters of a 3 day conference, forty five supporters of a 4 day conference, and twenty supporters of a 5 day conference. Respondents who had attended the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education in at least one of the last three years had eleven supporters of a 3 day conference, fifteen supporters of a 4 day conference, and ten supporters of a 5 day conference. This information is displayed in table 11.

What are the number of days suggested for a merged conference by the amount of conference program participation in the previous three years?

Respondents by conference participation categories also indicated strong support for a four day merged conference. Of the 61 respondents who had participated on the program of the Southern Agricultural Education Conference at least once in the last three years, 12 favored a three day merged conference, while 14 favored a five day merged conference. Of the 29 respondents who had participated on the program of the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education at least once during the previous three years six favored a three day conference, 13 favored a four day conference, and eight favored a five

Table 10

Frequency Response for Number of Days Suggested for Merged Conference by Position

Number of Days	Graduate Student	Head State Supervisor	Supervisor	Head Teacher Educator	Teacher Educator	Other	Total
One	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Two	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Three	-	1	8	10	12	2	33
Four	1	5	15	10	28	2	61
Five	2	2	7	2	13	-	26
Six	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Total	4	8	30	24	54	4	124

Table 11

Frequency Response for Number of Days Suggested for Merged Conference
By Amount of Conference Attendance in Previous Three Years

	Southern Agricultural Education Conference Attendance in Previous Three Years					Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education Attendance in Previous Three Years				
Number of Days	0	1	2	3	Total	0	1	2	3	Total
One	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Two	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	2
Three	15	7	5	6	33	22	10	1	-	33
Four	16	24	10	11	61	46	6	7	2	61
Five	6	13	3	4	25	16	5	1	4	26
Six	1	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	1

Table 12

Frequency Response for Number of Days Suggested for Merged Conference
By Amount of Conference Participation in Previous Three Years

	Southern Agricultural Education Conference Participation in Previous Three Years					Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education Participation in Previous Three Years				
Number of Days	0	1	2	3	Total	0	1	2	3	Total
One	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Two	2	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	2
Three	21	6	5	1	33	27	6	-	-	33
Four	27	21	10	3	61	48	9	3	1	61
Five	12	9	4	1	26	18	4	-	4	26
Six	1	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	1	2

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day conference. Table 12 displays data on this question.

What should be the location of a merged conference?

Table 13 indicates support for merged conferences being held at university campuses. For the total respondents of 95, 57 or 60 percent favored a university campus setting. Twenty-two or 23 percent favored holding a merged conference at a state capitol location.

Table 13

Frequency Response for Location Suggested for Merged Conference by Position

Location	Graduate Student	Head State Supervisor	Supervisor	Head Teacher Educator	Teacher Educator	Other	Total
State Capitol	0	1	9	1	4	1	16
University Campus	4	2	11	9	30	1	57
Other	0	3	8	5	5	5	22

Should the research position of a merged conference be separate from or integrated into the Southern Agricultural Education Conference?

Respondents did not show a definite preference for either a separate or integrated conference format. Sixty-five respondents preferred an integrated approach, while 60 preferred a separated approach. Head teacher educators favored the integrated approach by a margin of 18 to 6. Teacher educators preferred a separated approach by a margin of 30 to 23. Table 14 displays a summary of the frequency responses for this issue.

Table 14

Frequency Response for Holding a Separated or Integrated Merged Conference

	Graduate Student	Head State Supervisor	Supervisor	Head Teacher Educator	Teacher Educator	Other	Total
Separate	5	3	15	6	30	1	60
Integrated	0	5	16	18	23	3	65

Will a merged conference encourage or discourage graduate students and new professionals to participate?

The majority of respondents indicated that a merged conference would either encourage graduate student participation or make no difference. Seventy-six of the respondents (60.3 percent) indicated a belief that graduate students would be encouraged to participate in the research portion. Forty-four respondents (34.9 percent) believed that a merged conference would make no difference in graduate student participation. Table 15 displays the frequency response from respondents on this issue.

Table 15

Frequency Response for Discouraging or Encouraging Graduate Student Participation in the Research Portion

	Graduate Student	Head State Supervisor	Supervisor	Head Teacher Educator	Teacher Educator	Other	Total
Discourage	2	1	2	0	1	0	6
Encourage	4	4	12	16	38	2	76
No Different	0	3	15	8	15	3	44

Will a merged conference encourage or discourage state supervisors to participate in the research portion?

The majority of respondents indicated a belief that a merged conference would either encourage or make no difference in the participation of state supervisors in the research portion of the conference. Seventy-nine or 61.7

percent indicated a belief that state supervisors would be encouraged to participate in the research portion of the conference. Forty-three or 33.6 percent of the respondents indicated a belief that a merged conference would make no difference in the state supervisors' participation in the research portion. Table 16 summarizes the findings for this question.

Table 16

Frequency Response for Discouraging or Encouraging State Supervisor Participation in the Research Portion

	Graduate Student	Head State Supervisor	Supervisor	Head Teacher Educator	Teacher Educator	Other	Total
Disourage	0	2	1	0	3	0	6
Encourage	5	5	21	15	30	3	79
No Different	1	1	9	9	21	2	43

Miscellaneous findings from open-ended responses

When respondents were asked with open-ended response items to name the greatest advantages and the greatest disadvantages to a merged conference, they named many more advantages than disadvantages. The respondents named 156 advantages and 85 disadvantages.

The most frequently named advantage was a "savings for travel money" (n = 58). The second most named advantage was "more people could attend" (n = 16), while the next most named advantage was "more interaction between researchers and other professionals" (n = 14).

The most frequently named disadvantage was "reduce emphasis on research" (n = 16). The second most named disadvantage was "longer conferences" (n = 12).

Conclusions

Based upon the findings from southern region agricultural education supervisors, teacher educators, and graduate students who participated the in this study, the following conclusions were made:

1. Respondents support the concept of merging both regional conferences.
2. Respondents are more likely to attend a merged conference.
3. Respondents support holding the merged conference in the spring.
4. Respondents support holding a four day merged conference.
5. Respondents support holding the merged conference at a university campus.
6. Respondents showed almost equal support for a merged conference which integrates the research portion into the regular conference and having it separate from the regular conference.
7. Respondents indicated a belief that graduate students would be more encouraged to attend a merged conference.
8. Respondents indicated a belief that supervisors would be encouraged to attend a merged conference.

Recommendations

Based upon the findings and conclusions of the study the following recommendations were made:

1. Procedures be initiated to bring about the merger of the Southern Agricultural Education Conference and the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education.
2. The merger process should consider the findings and conclusions of this study.

Cepica, M.J., Dickerson, I., and Jewell, L.R. Proceedings 30th southern research conference in agricultural education, 1981.

Rogers, R.A. Directory of agricultural teacher educators. Washington: U.S. Department of Education, 1981.

U.S. Department of Education. Directory - state officials with responsibilities for programs of vocational education in agriculture. Washington: U.S. Department of Education, 1981.

APPENDIX A

Please indicate your opinion about merging the Southern Agricultural Education Conference and the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education into one conference by circling the response representing your thoughts. The letters SA = strongly agree, A = agree, U = undecided, D = Disagree, and SD = strongly disagree.

1.	I support the merged concept.	SA	A	U	D	SD
2.	It would weaken both conferences	SA	A	U	D	SD
3.	I would be more likely to attend one merged conference than the two we presently have	SA	A	U	D	SD
4.	It would be confusing to have a merged conference	SA	A	U	D	SD
5.	My state or institution would be willing to host a merged conference	SA	A	U	D	SD
6.	It is easier for me to attend two medium length conferences than one long conference	SA	A	U	D	SD
7.	A merged conference would weaken the emphasis on research	SA	A	U	D	SD

In order to hold a successful merged conference it would be best to:

1.	Have a total of _____ days	6	5	4	3	2	1
2.	Hold it at	State Capitol		University Campus			Other Location
3.	Have the research part _____ from/into the regular Southern Agr. Ed. Conference	Separate		Integrated			
4.	Hold it during the	Winter		Summer	Spring		Fall
5.	I will be _____ likely to attend a merged conference	Less		More			No Different
6.	It will _____ graduate students and new professionals to participate in the research portion	Encourage		Discourage			No Different
7.	It will _____ state supervisors to participate in the research portion	Encourage		Discourage			No Different

Southern Agricultural Education Survey Form

1. Place an X on the line describing your position.

   Graduate Student _____
   Head State Supervisor _____
   Supervisor (Consultant) _____
   Head Teacher Educator _____
   Teacher Educator _____
   Other (explain) _____

2. State or Institutional Affiliation _____

3a. Indicate the number of times in the last three years that you have participated in the Southern Agricultural Education Conference by:

   A. Attending _____
   B. Participating on the program _____
   C. Chairing sessions _____
   D. Serving on committees _____
   E. Chairing committees _____

3b. Indicate the number of times in the last three years that you have participated in the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education by:

   A. Attending _____
   B. Participating on the program _____
   C. Chairing sessions _____
   D. Serving on committees _____
   E. Chairing committees _____

4. Next year I plan to attend:

   A. Neither conference _____
   B. Both conferences _____
   C. The Southern Agricultural Education Conference only _____
   D. The Southern Research Conference Conference in Agricultural Education only _____

What can you identify as the greatest advantages and disadvantages of a merged conference?

Greatest Advantages:

Greatest Disadvantages:

Do you support the merged conference concept?

APPENDIX B

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Dear Head Teacher Educator:

For a number of years participants in the Southern Agricultural Education Conference and the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education have discussed the possibility of merging the two conferences into one. At the last Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education held at Texas Tech University in July 1981, a committee was formed to study the feasibility of such a merger. The committee consists of Jimmy Cheek (University of Florida), Earl Knebel (Texas A & M), John Hillison (Virginia Tech) and Charles Smith (Louisiana State University).

The committee has developed a survey instrument to determine the attitudes of participants and future participants in the two Southern Agricultural Education Conferences. I have attempted to enclose the appropraite number of instruments for use with your faculty and staff, including graduate students interested in attending either or both conferences. If you need additional copies of the instrument please call or write me.

It would greatly facilitate the data collection process if you would distribute the attached instruments to the members of your department. I would recommend giving a copy of the instrument to each member of the department and asking for its return to you within a week. After you have collected all of the instruments place them in the attached envelope and return to me by October 15th.

Results of the study will be shared at an appropriate time, such as one of the conferences during the next year. Your assistance in the study is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call me at (703) 961-6836.

Yours truly,

John Hillison

John Hillison
Associate Professor
Agricultural Education

JH/ds

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

November, 1981

Dear Head State Supervisor:

For a number of years participants in the Southern Agricultural Education Conference and the Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education have discussed the possibility of merging the two conferences into one. At the last Southern Research Conference in Agricultural Education held at Texas Tech University in July 1981, a committee was formed to study the feasibility of such a merger. The committee consists of Jimmy Cheek (University of Florida), Earl Knebel (Texas A & M), John Hillison (Virginia Tech) and Charles Smith (Louisiana State University).

The committee has developed a survey instrument to determine the attitudes of participants and future participants in the two Southern Agricultural Education Conferences. I have attempted to enclose the appropriate number of instruments for use with your staff. If you need additional copies of the instrument please call or write me.

It would greatly facilitate the data collection process if you would distribute the attached instruments to the members of your staff. I would recommend giving a copy of the instrument to each member of the staff and asking for its return to you within seven to ten days. After you have collected all of the instruments place them in the attached envelope and return to me by November 20, 1981.

Results of the study will be shared at an appropriate time, such as one of the conferences during the next year. Your assistance in the study is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call me at (703) 961-6836.

Yours truly,

John Hillison

John Hillison
Associate Professor
Agricultural Education

JH/ds

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Dear Agricultural Educator:

For a number of years educators in the Southern Agricultural Education region have discussed the possibility of merging the Southern Agricultural Education Conference and the Southern Research Conference into one conference. The purpose of the attached instrument is to determine agricultural educator's attitudes toward such a possibility. It will greatly facilitate the decision-making process if you would complete the attached instrument and return it to the designated person.

John Hillison

John Hillison
Associate Professor
Agricultural Education